

awake but up and doing. Health is the most vital thing in the life of each individual of each community. It is generally conceded that it is better to have a sanitary community than a sick community.

So many health measures that have proven effective elsewhere are not adequately applied in California. There is vast room for improvement during 1920 in this direction. The gospel of health is not spread by those who stand idly in the market place gazing at the drifting clouds.

All members of the profession can and should aid in this important work. No one knows the health needs of the community better than the physicians. They feel the public pulse so often that they know its rhythm and reason.

Let no one vainly try to do during 1920 what can only be accomplished by concerted effort. The biggest things in life cannot be accomplished by one individual playing a solitary game. It has been well said that the person who thinks he can get along without others is foolish, and if he thinks others cannot get along without him he is a fool.

As a permanent 1920 resolution, let us cultivate the cooperative spirit and all highly resolve, that by applying the helpful agencies known to modern medicine, we will make our part of the world a better place to live in, and that unselfishly and unflinchingly we will fulfill our professional and civic duties.

In this way we will not only initiate a new calendar but a new era of development.

ANNUAL TAX NOW DUE.

Particular attention is called to the fact that the annual tax of \$2.00 is now due and payable by all persons holding certificates to practice the healing art in the State of California. Failure to pay this tax to the Board of Medical Examiners within sixty days of January 1, causes automatic forfeiture of license. It also leads to omission of the name of the offender from the official directory issued annually by the Board. Re-instatement can only follow special application in a specified form, this application to be accompanied by a penalty of \$10.00. In case you have not received due notice of this tax, it may well be that you have not, as required by law, kept the Board of Medical Examiners informed of your changes of address. This tax is necessary, and is imposed by law and it is not in the option of the Board of Medical Examiners to remit or omit it. *It must be paid.*

Those who have paid the tax covering any portion of 1919 must none the less pay the \$2.00 required for 1920. Do not delay unless you wish to make trouble for yourself and forfeit \$10.00.

It is worth your while to read over the addenda published in the back of the official directory issued by the State Board of Medical Examiners. You will find several points of special interest. You will find, for instance, that the law requires your license to practice, to be prominently displayed in your office.

MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY HOSPITAL RULES.

A matter of no small importance in the public health program of a municipality is its emergency hospital service. Too often the attitude of the medical profession as well as of the lay public is that service on such duty is merely a polite form of graft whereby the attending staff is afforded opportunity to secure patients of right belonging as patients to outside surgeons. Such an attitude is sometimes all too justifiable. It is a pleasure, therefore, as well as a matter of instruction, to comment on the excellent organization and administration attained in the San Francisco emergency hospital service under the direction of Dr. Alanson Weeks, and now to be continued by Dr. Edmund Butler, who succeeds to the position of Chief Surgeon following the recent resignation of Dr. Weeks. Of special interest are the following rules, which might well serve as a model for all emergency hospital services.

1. Under no circumstances is any doctor of this Service to take for his own any case first seen by him in an Emergency Hospital.

2. Immediate notification of the family physician and the relatives of all cases brought to an Emergency Hospital. If patient has no physician, a list of at least six doctors, who are known to be reputable, is to be given him from which he may select one.

3. The Doctor on duty is directly responsible for the searching and booking of valuables of patients.

4. An Emergency Hospital sticker reading "Emergency Dressing only. Have your own doctor examine at once" is to be placed upon all dressings made in Emergency Hospitals.

INDUSTRIAL PHYSIOLOGY.

This term is applied by Frederic S. Lee* to the hygienic or physiologic aspects of industrial activity. The war has demonstrated anew the close relationship between industrial efficiency and health. Efficiency and industrial success depend after all, on the harmonious and healthful operation of individual human bodies. These facts are receiving attention from the more thoughtful and far-sighted industrial leaders. The methods of industrial physiology are based on observation and experiment. Careful and accurate analysis of output and of physiologic effects of work are made. As a result, both employer and worker will soon recognize that industry must be organized on an intelligent basis and "not, as heretofore, on a basis of ignorance of how the worker can do his best."

Lee mentions among the subjects being investigated and deserving investigation, the following topics. The high cost of a high labor turnover is shown by increased production cost, increased accidents and the necessity for training new workers. Food and efficiency are closely related. Physiologic analysis of certain operations has been aided by the cinematograph which has led to simplified manipulations and less strain on the worker. Accidents are closely related to fatigue, inexperience, fast work, poor light, heat, and other causes. The

*P. H. Reports, April 11, 1919.

problem of the woman in industry is simply to find those places for which she is best suited. Night work is less efficient than day work. Shorter hours lead toward an optimum of industrial efficiency as gauged by output. Frequent rest periods have the same effect. The use of physiologic and psychologic tests in selecting workers for certain jobs opens up a wide field. Self-limitation of work by the worker presents certain problems in this study and the worker should work up to his physiologic capacity, which in turn, should not be exceeded.

Such a discussion as Lee has provided, shows once more the strategic position of the doctor in industry and what a virgin field of industrial development awaits the development of industrial physiology.

HOSPITAL SERVICE.

We take pleasure and pride in offering to our readers a new section devoted to hospital service. It is only through the instrumentality of thoroughly equipped and organized hospitals that medicine can be even approximately applied in its fulness.

Well trained physicians and surgeons of many communities have felt the heavy handicap that is placed upon their efficiency by inadequate hospital facilities. The practical value of the hospital hints which will appear from month to month in the columns of the Journal we are assured will be welcomed and appreciated by all progressive physicians.

A hospital with the minimum requirements and organized along the lines set forth in the article on Hospital Betterment in California on page 29 of this issue of the Journal tells the story of the standards of the medical men of the community, and also reflects the interest of the residents in the health of the community. In a community where we find a good hospital we know that medical standards are maintained. It follows as night the day that better hospitals produce better medicine.

DOES INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE PAY?

Under this title, the Monthly Labor Review for October, 1919, summarizes a study by H. E. Mock¹ of the development, scope and benefits of industrial medicine and surgery. Emphasis is laid on the economic value to the employer of a system of physical examinations of applicants for work before employment. Physical selection of workers for the specific work they are best fitted to do is important not only to the employer, however, but also to the employee.

Mock reviews some of the sources of waste arising out of employment of the physically unfit as follows: 1. The unfit who later must be discharged because of inability to do the work; 2. The unfit who gradually lose efficiency because of physical inaptitude or partial disability; 3. The unfit who are subject to a high accident rate; 4. Those who receive undue disability from accidents due to pre-existing physical defects or disease; 5. Those who are afflicted with some con-

tagious disease, including tuberculosis and venereal disease; 6. Those who are mentally deficient.

Such an analysis shows clearly the protection to the worker from such pre-employment physical examination. The reduction of labor turn-over effected by this means is in itself a factor of considerable economic saving. It is certainly incumbent, as Mock advises, on every company surgeon, safety engineer and welfare worker to "show that the benefits to the employer are in direct ratio to the thoroughness and completeness of the plan which he adopts for the conservation of the health of his employees."

Editorial Comment

Some cases of patent malaria can be diagnosed by a rise of temperature and the appearance of the plasmodia in the circulating blood after the hypodermic injection of one milligram of adrenalin. This reaction may appear up to two days after the injection and may require two injections for its production. A negative result does not disprove the presence of malaria.

In a recent review of current work and opinion on the thymus gland, W. E. Blatz¹ of Toronto, comes to the conclusion that it is impossible to attribute any definite function to this organ and that it probably is not a gland of internal secretion. He quotes E. R. Hoskins to the effect that "the thymus functions as a lymphoid organ in infancy and childhood when a large number of lymphocytes and leucocytes are needed to combat infections." According to this opinion, the thymus resembles such lymphoid organs as the tonsils which undergo involution when no longer needed physiologically.

Recognizing that the newspaper ads of quack specialists and "cures" for venereal diseases were one of the gravest obstacles in the campaign for the eradication of venereal disease, the U. S. Public Health Service sent a request to 20,000 advertising media in the United States requesting them to discontinue this class of advertising. All but 140 of this number have definitely agreed to do so. Most of the better newspapers had already found it good business to stop this class of advertising. All of them now recognize it and venereal disease "cures" and "specialists" now are a sure indication that the paper or journal carrying them is behind the times and unfit for decent circulation.

It is a sign of the times that physicians as a class and as individuals are awaking to their responsibility in human conservation. We are saving this and saving that, and fighting the H. C. L. with economy and production. All very well. How about saving human life and prolonging it? The high cost of dying keeps pace with other costs, and death and illness create a sum total of economic, social and moral costs which is mountainous in its disastrous effects on the sons of men. Hence it is well that we should set disease prevention before disease cure, and healthful living before unnecessary dying.

¹ Jour. Indus. Hyg., Sept., 1919.